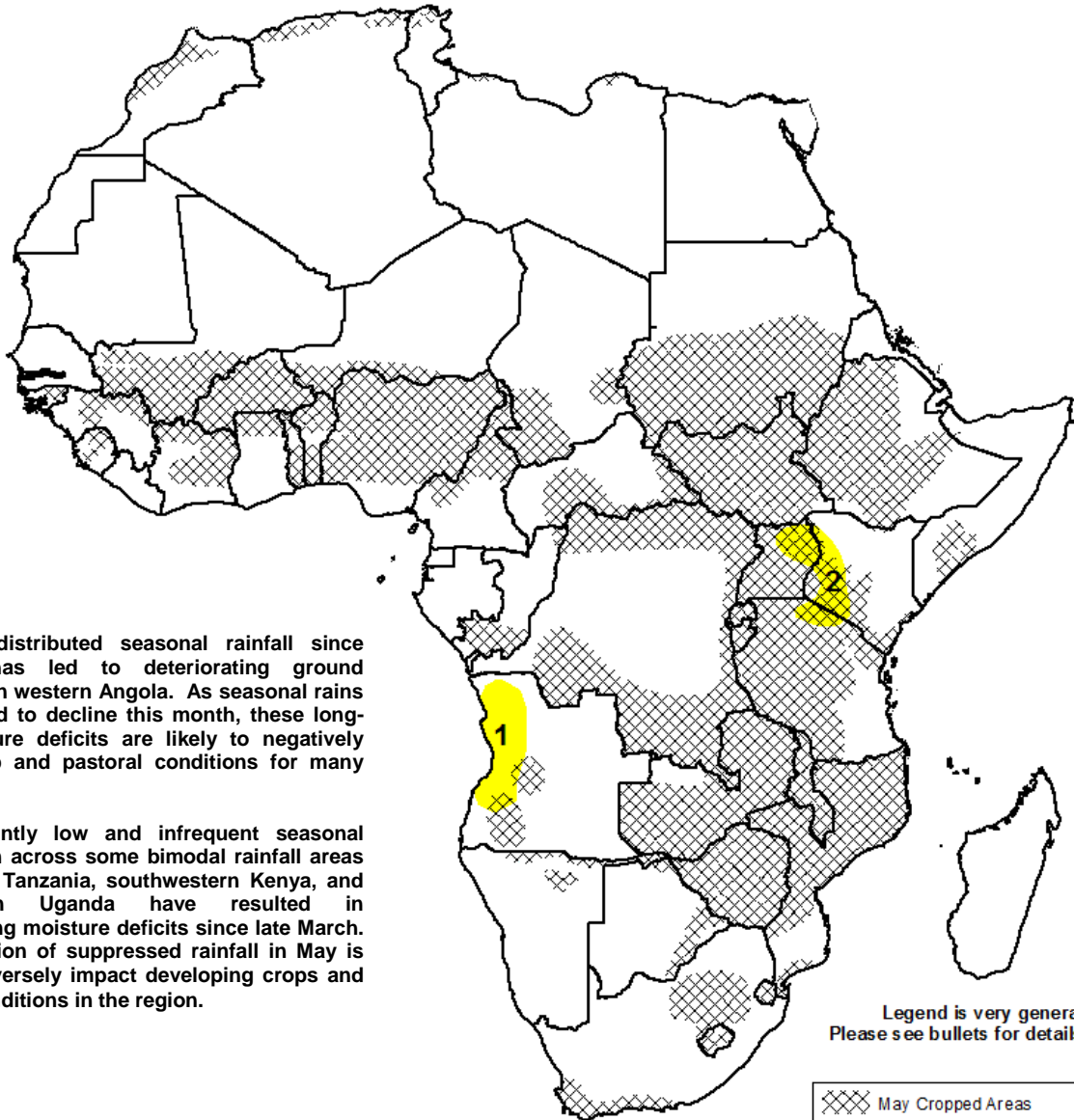




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook May 1 – May 7, 2014

- In late April, a widespread suppression of seasonal precipitation was observed throughout the Greater Horn of Africa.



1) Poorly distributed seasonal rainfall since February has led to deteriorating ground conditions in western Angola. As seasonal rains are expected to decline this month, these long-term moisture deficits are likely to negatively impact crop and pastoral conditions for many areas.

2) Consistently low and infrequent seasonal precipitation across some bimodal rainfall areas of northern Tanzania, southwestern Kenya, and northeastern Uganda have resulted in strengthening moisture deficits since late March. A continuation of suppressed rainfall in May is likely to adversely impact developing crops and pastoral conditions in the region.

Legend is very general.
Please see bullets for details.

	May Cropped Areas
	Flooding
	Abnormal Dryness
	Drought
	Severe Drought
	Tropical Cyclone
	Potential Locust Outbreak
	Heavy Snow
	Abnormal Cold
	Abnormal Heat

Anomalous dry conditions develop across parts of East Africa.

During the last seven days, an abrupt cessation of seasonal precipitation was observed throughout many local areas in the Greater Horn of Africa. While moderate to locally heavy rainfall continued across western Ethiopia for the fourth consecutive week, little to no precipitation was received in the eastern portions of Amhara, Tigray, Oromia, and Somali provinces of the country (**Figure 1**). This marks the third consecutive week where rains have been unfavorably low in many parts of central and eastern Ethiopia. In Somalia, locally moderate showers were observed in the far south, with some offshore moisture extending into the eastern coast region of Kenya. However, much of Kenya also saw a large suppression of precipitation, as the highest amounts (20-40mm) were limited to the Kisumu region in the southwest. In Uganda, weekly rainfall was more seasonable in the western part of the country, with lesser amounts (10-30mm) observed further east. In Tanzania, poorly distributed rains were also received across many bimodal areas in the north, as more moderate and locally higher amounts were observed in the Pwani, Morogoro, and Lindi provinces in the east.

Following a period of increased and favorable rains and moisture during late March and early April, both the quantity and distribution of seasonal rainfall in the Greater Horn has become increasingly poor. An analysis of satellite estimated rainfall anomalies since the beginning of April depict an expansion and strengthening of negative anomalies over the past few weeks in East Africa (**Figure 2**). The greatest month-to-date moisture deficits (50-100mm) are currently found across portions of southwestern Kenya, eastern Uganda, and southeastern Ethiopia. Although moisture surpluses have been observed in parts of southern Somalia and eastern Kenya due to brief period of heavy rainfall in mid-April, these positive anomalies remain localized and not well distributed. Only portions of South Sudan, eastern Tanzania and western Ethiopia have observed favorably average to above-average rainfall during the last month.

The anomalously dry conditions that have been developing across the Greater Horn have been particularly untimely for some areas that normally expect their peak climatological rainfall during April. As a result, this leaves less opportunity for moisture deficient areas to recover during the next several weeks, which may lead to failed crop production and deterioration of pastoral conditions.

For the upcoming outlook period, precipitation models suggest the return of moderate to locally heavy seasonal rainfall throughout many anomalously dry areas of the Greater Horn. The highest rainfall amounts (>50mm) are forecast across southeastern Ethiopia, northern and southern Somalia, as well as in northern Tanzania, and southeastern Kenya (**Figure 3**). Increased rains and moisture are expected help mitigate developing dryness in eastern Ethiopia and Somalia; however portions of southwestern Kenya may see as much relief during the next seven days.

Note: The hazards outlook map on page 1 is based on current weather/climate information and short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week). It assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

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